

November 28, 1930.

S
Insect Control

The Forester,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There follows a summary by forests of tree destroying insects as observed during the year 1930 to date.

Apache

Damage during the year confined to scattered trees over the forest. Conditions do not warrant action.

Carson

The tent caterpillar infestation is believed to have been less than in 1929, although it covered a part of the area infested in 1929, and some additional territory. Ranger Wang, who has studied the life history of the caterpillar, believed that a parasite is now working and may eventually control the situation. The area was visited by Dr. Blackman this fall to get first hand knowledge of the situation.

The spruce bud worm infestation is no more serious than in 1929, and may from general observation be less.

Coconino

Conditions considered normal for most of the forest. Ips continue to kill some reproduction on sale areas and along roads. Dendroctonus still working in the vicinity of Turkey Tanks. Lightning damage was severe in 1930, as in 1929, and trees damaged by this means are finished off by insects. The situation does not warrant control.

Coronado

Conditions continue normal.

Crook

Insect infestation on the forest, except on Mt. Graham, Pinal Mountain and at Safford (the latter off the Forest) is normal. The Mt. Graham area was visited and studied by Dr. Blackman who reports that killing in 1930 was only a fraction of the amount killed annually during the past few years. The situation on Mt. Graham is, therefore, encouraging. (See Dr. Blackman's report for details.)

Pinal Mountain

Infested trees as soon as noted are removed and utilized.

Safford

The beetle attack on cypress in the Gila Valley continues which indicates the doom of this ornamental planting.

No control operations are apparently warranted on the forest.

Prescott

Insect infestation on the Prescott is endemic except on the Prescott Ranger District. Ips damage still apperent on the Carmichael & Haining sale area on the Camp Wood road. Merchantable infested trees are being cut and utilized. Area visited by Dr. Blackman and the situation was not considered serious. There has been an increase in infestation since his visit.

It will be recalled that control measures have been undertaken on the Prescott and Turkey Creek areas, both of which are in the Prescott Ranger District. Ranger McNelty described the situation as follows: Prescott area - loss less than last year, only about half the number of trees killed. Turkey Creek area - practically the same number lost as last year. On that portion of the District where no control work has been done the infestation is about the same as it has been for the past two years. There is no place on the District where the infestation appears serious at the present time....."

Dr. Blackman spent considerable time on the Prescott during the past summer and while his final report has as yet not been received, it is our understanding that he is quite optimistic as regards the Prescott situation.

Datil

Conditions normal.

Gila

Conditions as a whole are normal.

Lincoln

The insect attack on Engelmann spruce and the looper attack on Douglas fir have run their course. Some losses from Ips on small sales in the western yellow pine type. These losses are of very small extent and may be due to summer burning of piled brush, which practice has now been discontinued. On the Forest as a whole insect losses are reported as the lightest in several years.

Manzano

Conditions on forest considered normal. However, some heavy Ips damage found on western yellow pine cutting areas in the Zuni Mountains on the McGaffey and Hilso operations. Some damage from Ips on pinon in the Zuni Mountains. A little damage by insects along loop road in Sandia Mts. Visited by Dr. Blackman; conditions not at all alarming.

Santa Fe

Conditions normal. The spruce budworm infestation on the Pecos Division in previous years is not in evidence this year and many of the trees previously attacked

appear to be making recovery and some growth. Area visited by Dr. Blackman.

Sitgreaves

Conditions normal.

Tonto

Conditions normal.

Tusayan

Conditions normal. The Williams watershed mentioned by Wales' report in 1929, was examined by Drs. Craighead and Blackman, who reported the area was not in serious condition and no control appeared necessary.

On the whole insect losses in this region in 1930 are normal. There appear to be no new areas on which insects are building up to epidemic proportions, and those areas on which this condition existed in 1929 or earlier, appear to be no worse and in most cases are decidedly on the mend. The reason for the decline in the defoliator attacks cannot be determined. It is unfortunate that we did not have the men and equipment to study one or more of these areas collecting data on all the influencing factors including wind movement, temperatures, rainfall, enemies, etc. that would in time enable us to determine the cause of this natural decline. The reason for the decline in the bark beetles attacks may be accounted for by better rainfall and to a more vigorous stand due to less competition on account of trees killed in the past by insects.

We very much appreciate the help given this region through the assignment of Dr. Blackman and his staff to a study of our insect problems and while conditions in 1930, appear to be improving it is hoped that this will not prevent Dr. Blackman's return for a continued study of the life histories of local species, and thus build up data needed to better understand and inaugurate control if this is needed in the future.

An extra copy of this report is attached for the Bureau of Entomology if you care to use it for this purpose.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W. POOLER, Regional Forester,

By (s) Hugh G. Calkins Acting